

# HOME Smart Home

Life under control

## BUILT FOR A STAR

Hollywood's smartest home



### BOSTON UNCOMMON

It's through the roof!

### LA DOLCE VITA

A sweet pad for business

A Control4 publication  
Fall 2015



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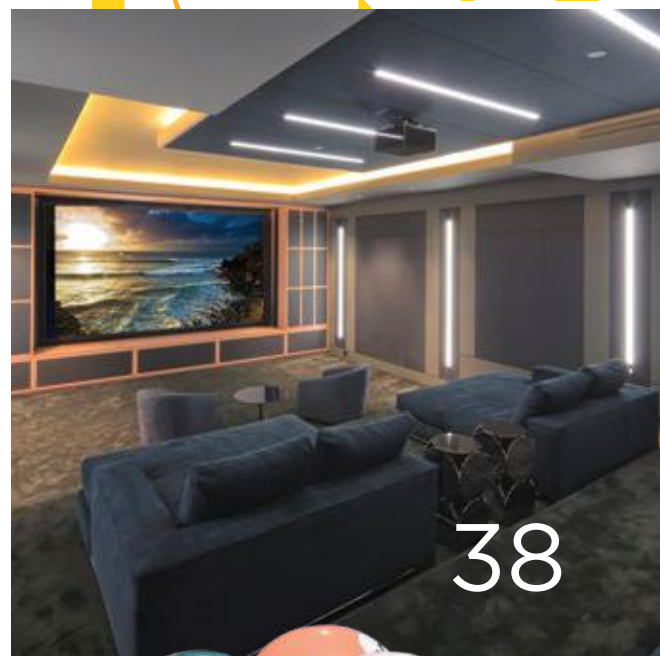
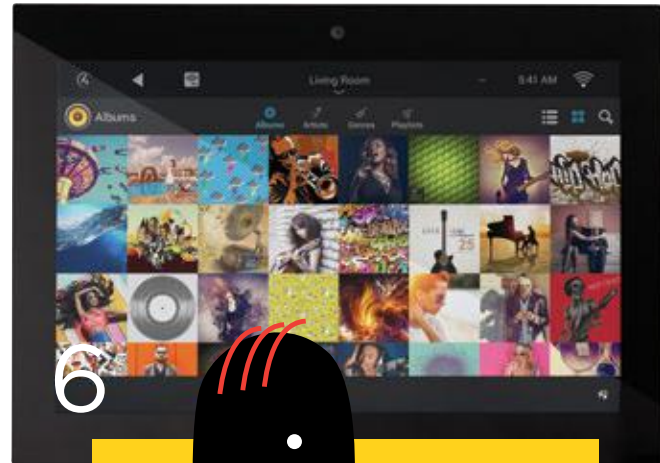
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Wine country, here we come. This hilltop home makes the most of the scenery, and the "scenes."



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

I was recently treated to a screening of 2001: A Space Odyssey in a Control4-driven home theater, and the film came alive to me like never before. The cinematic experience—scaled to a home theater's intimacy—seemed to punch up the gorgeously shot visuals and iconic score.

And yes, I was enjoying entertainment by a smart automated system as I watched a movie about a smart-but-psycho automated system. The irony is not lost on me. But I like to think we're enjoying the golden age of automation, where the art of entertaining has become creative practice akin to mixology.

That's the theme of this issue - creative entertainment. We spotlight truly innovative visions that have been perfectly realized. One family takes a brownstone in Boston and makes magic with the rooftop. The owner of an Orange County home transports you to a nearly invisibly automated European villa. A celebrity-ready dream home in Los Angeles gets its close-up, and two sophisticated man caves prove once and for all that the male species can display restraint and poise.

Be sure to check out the Toronto penthouse that transforms into the ultimate double-level screening room. Then end your journeys far into the woods of Sonoma, at a peaceful forest home that is state-of-the-art smart.

And...cue Also Sprach Zarathustra!

Until Next Time,



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# WHAT'S NEW?



## Listen Up, Music Lovers!

As far as we're concerned, it's not a smart home unless it sings on command. Here's to more music in every corner of your house! Control4 is pleased to announce its expanding lineup of audio entertainment options, all in the name of enhancing your whole-home listening experience. On top of the crowd-pleasers Rhapsody and TuneIn, you will now see three new streaming services available at your fingertips: Pandora, TIDAL, and Deezer. (Deezer, by the way, is a subscription streaming-music service that began in France in 2007 and has become one of the most popular streaming services of all time.)

## Looking Good, Security

Enjoy the most intuitive and expansive security experience Control4 has ever created. With OS 2.8, you can: see all sensors and control them within a single view; arm and disarm your alarm system or call for emergency help directly from your touch screens, a TV or your mobile device; manage locks and access your smart home right from your iOS or Android device; create "Mockupancy" scenes that record your behavior and playback lighting or televisions to make it appear you are home while you are away.

## Cool Cover-Ups

Looking to personalize, or maybe just add personality, to your smart home savvy? The all-new Control4 touch screens are loaded with new wallpaper and screensaver options that are as pretty as they are practical. A few of the crowd pleasers include a sleek date and time display, a simply stunning weather view, and a full-screen, bold image of the music or movies currently in play. To learn more, ask your Control4 Dealer.



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# Great New Looks for Smart Home Control

Intuitive interfaces, HD art, more info, and 'Mockupancy' are at the heart of the striking new Control4 Operating System upgrades



Control4 10" Portable Touch Screen

Busy life? That's where a true smart home can help, providing time- and energy-saving conveniences in managing your home—whether you're at home or away. But a smart home system is only as good as its ease of use. So, super-simple control over your home has been put at the core of the new Control4® Operating System being rolled out in October at the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association (CEDIA) Expo in Dallas.

The OS 2.8 system features several updated looks with intuitive touch screen control. Say you're at work,

you can check on the house with a new-look security panel on your smartphone app. At a glance, you can see all the activity that has happened in the house, view all the door sensors and lock or unlock a door with one with a tap, and manage users and passcodes to let in a contractor or babysitter.

Going to be away for a few days? A new feature can learn your lighting, shading, and TV viewing patterns and replay them, at random, so the house appears occupied. When you finally arrive home, you're greeted with a touch

screen showing family pictures, along with a clock, date, and even what music is playing. Settle in and browse your music and movie collections with cover and poster art and info, or search your network for something new.

The advances in the latest Control4 Operating System are meant to provide a more intuitive, user-friendly experience, so anyone in your home can easily operate the system, explains Control4 Director of Product Marketing Brad Hintze. OS 2.7, available since March 2015, made major improvements to

comfort controls, integrated a weather app in touch screens and dramatically improved the speed of video intercom and camera connections.

The new OS 2.8 includes a complete makeover of the security user interface. "Security panels don't have a good history of being user friendly," says Hintze. And the typical entry code chore is just the beginning. Try digging for event information on a typical security panel, and it's often time to place a support call. "We've taken all of the information and boiled it down so anyone visiting your house can operate the system."

As Hintze explains, most security panels may show the most recent event on a small LCD panel. In the new Control4

Operating System, users get a single view of all the recent history in the house on a mobile app or touch screen. Another view shows all the sensors, such as those on doors and gates, and with a tap you can lock or arm an entry point. And a new user interface for electronic door locks allows you to manage users and set codes on Apple iOS and Android-based devices to allow contractors and others to access your home as needed. These features were previously available only on Control4 T3 Touch Screens.

Control4 has also made it a has also made it easier for dealers to



OS 2.8 can repeat your lighting and AV patterns to make the home feel occupied.

integrate third-party security panels and those settings and features into the home control system.

## MOCKUPANCY

Some lighting control systems have vacation settings that learn your lighting patterns and repeat them when you're away from home, but Control4 has gone a step or two further. The new Mockupancy® feature for OS 2.7 and 2.8 not only learns your lighting, but also learns the patterns you use with your home control system, such as motorized shading, audio and video, and

can repeat them at random when you're not at home, so a clear pattern can't be determined by the bad guys. Talk about having that "lived-in" look.

## ART OF ENTERTAINMENT

Some very attractive graphical features are also coming to touch screens and music and movie interfaces. New T3 touch screens (7- and 10-inch in Wall and 7- and Tabletop Touch Screens) can now show personal photos, with information like time, date, weather, and media now playing superimposed on it. Photos can be added easily if there's an NAS (network attached storage) device on the Control4 network, or a dealer can upload some family pics to

cycle through on the touch screens.

My Music and My Movies features have received a high-def makeover, with HD album cover or movie poster art, and metadata. You can also search your entire home system and attached devices, including streaming services, for media by title, artist name, genre, and more, whether it's stored on your smart home network or streamed via Napster, Rhapsody, and TuneIn.

If you're interested in these makeovers for your smart home, consult your Control4 dealer, help you decide how best to upgrade your smart home system. ■



# LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUTOMATION!

If there's one town where the home automation craze caught on early, it's Hollywood. For more than 60 years, movies and TV have been showing us home automation at its best (and worst). Most of these depictions are portrayals of what were, at the time, only imaginary technologies. My, how times have changed!

What was once possible only in the fevered imaginings of Hollywood screenwriters can now be an everyday reality, with automation. With that in mind, we thought it would be fun to take a look back at home technology in film and television, and see how the anachronistic representations of yesteryear compare with the realities of today.

## Click (2006)



This goofy Adam Sandler comedy tells the tale of an over-worked dad who is thrilled to receive an all-powerful remote control capable of controlling everyone and everything. Though the movie does not include any home automation *per se*, it does feature the greatest universal remote of all time, and for that reason it makes all the sense in the universe to highlight it here.

While the concept of an all-powerful remote (outside of a Hollywood movie) has indeed come a long way (even since 2006!), hopefully power at your fingertips will always come with limits.

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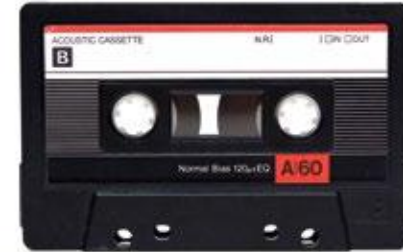
# BITS & PIECES *For big laughs and little-did-you-knows*

**1%** of the population in Nigeria, Ghana, Bangladesh and Uganda own a household landline

**60%** of US population still has a landline telephone



**50,000**  
That was the number of cassette tapes sold in 2014. CDs sold 140.8 million.



Before Dolby Stereo, Dolby Surround Sound 5.1, and Dolby Surround Sound 7.1, there was Sensurround. Developed in 1974 for the release of *Earthquake*, the system was designed to deliver big, booming bass-y sound effects to theaters. Some reports claim that plaster and tiles were shaking loose from theater walls.

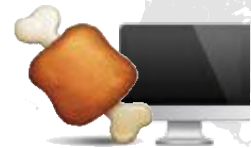


**\$400,000**

That's how much was spent on building the world's first "Immersive Fitness" studio in Hong Kong, an indoor gym with a 270-degree virtual-reality screen.

Researchers from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute found that "nature-type" sounds help people in open-plan offices regain focus faster than those who heard either machine-generated white noise or silence (the office soundscape).

## How We Use Emoji



US ranks #1 in use of meat and tech emojis. The eggplant is also quite popular.



Cold weather emojis are #1 amongst Russian speakers, and warm emojis #1 for Arabic speakers.



What's #1 in Australia, mate? Junk food, alcohol, and drug emoji.

SOURCES: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PEWRESEARCH.ORG, MOTION-CAPTURE-SYSTEM.COM, TRENDHUNTER.COM, WIKIPEDIA.ORG, EXPRESSENSE, FUSION.NET, THE ATLANTIC.COM, CNN.COM

*The Polar Express*, directed by Robert Zemeckis, marked the first time motion capture was used to create a full feature-length film.



Swedish YouTuber Felix Kjellberg, aka "PewDiePie," made **\$7.4 million** last year by streaming videos of himself playing video games.



"On my business card, I am a corporate president. In my mind, I am a game e-loper. But in my heart, I am a gamer."

—Nintendo CEO Satoru Iwata, whose last appearance fore his death was as a Jim Henson Company-designed Muppet, at E3, a gaming conference







# Happily Ever After

An old-world estate  
adds modern magic

**G**azing from the lookout tower of this enchanting abode, it's hard to remember where in the real world you are—Tuscany? The Sherwood Forest? Never Never Land?

The answer is Orange County, California, where the terrain often resembles the Italian countryside: rolling hills, blue skies, and stately homes, including one whose outer old-school beauty is now matched with an automation system that would charm the pants off any nobleman.

The 8,000 square-foot home is new, but was built with European villas in mind. The owner and his wife have traveled extensively in Italy, and their intention was to make their new home as authentic as possible. How? Details, details, details. The wrought-iron sconces are

The challenge:  
add modern  
automation to a  
decidedly old-  
school residence  
with castle-like  
flourishes.

Project installation by  
Brilliant AV



A door station at the entrance connects the owner with visitors virtually, so he doesn't have to cross the courtyard to answer the door in person.



hand made. The windows are imported from a specialist in Italy. The roof was salvaged from a bona fide old villa. It's no secret that the focus of this property is firmly placed in the Old-World—so much so, in fact, that the owner was reluctant to the idea of adding automation.

"I'm not a high-tech person by nature," the owner notes, "and I really had to be talked into the system." When friends would talk about the benefits of automation, this homeowner was intrigued, but skeptical that high-tech would mesh, especially aesthetically, with his storybook estate. Eventually, though, he was swayed into giving it a shot, and approached Steve Stary at Brilliant AV with the challenge.

"He wanted all the benefits of technology without any complication

or the unnecessary feel of technology," says Steve. "The owners didn't want technology to be the star; they just wanted the benefits, because everything in the house is Old World, trying to hearken back to an different time. The technology in here had to be somewhat hidden."

"The house needs to look authentic, not like an amusement-park replica," the owner says. "And the tech should be incorporated in a sort of neutral or background way."

And so, like the star of a storybook legend, Steve worked tirelessly to modernize the property without disturbing the timeless tone. The resulting system features audio and video distribution to over 12 TVs and audio zones, an alarm system, nine thermostat zones, and



PHOTOS BY JIM STONE

With the tech hidden in the details, the estate's Old-World charm remains front and center.





cameras throughout the property. Not a bad feat, considering much of the house is covered in stone, and the owner's strict orders to keep as much of the technology as invisible as possible.

Touring the home today, the dream has been realized. Besides the occasional flat-screen television, it's hard to tell whether the house is one year old or one thousand years old. Speakers are hidden in plain sight, painted to match ceilings and walls. And behind the scenes, the Control4-powered automation system is hard at work, providing comfort and luxury via all sorts of subtle delights. For instance, there are a dozen or so speakers in the back yard, hidden in the rocks. "A lot

of technology is just behind the scenes," Steve notes.

In many cases, Steve and his team improved upon systems that were already in place. The pool, for example, featured an alarm that would sound if anything of significant size fell into it. But people could only hear the pool alarm if they were in one particular part of the house. Steve sent the alarm through the Control4 system so that an audio alert plays through all speakers in the system. Additionally, the owner now receives a text alert on his phone. Steve built a similar system to trigger alerts when the sump pump in the basement springs to action.

Keeping with the castle-like design, the front door of the property doesn't open directly

Classic cookery in a castle kitchen, *above*. The system rack keeps cool in a discreet closet on the lower level, allowing the Italian-influenced décor to command the attention of visitors, *below*.



The pool's alarm is automatically distributed through the house's audio system, *top*. Guests relaxing in the back yard may not see any signs of tech, but they'll hear it when music plays through hidden speakers.

into the house—instead, it opens into a courtyard. Steve added a door station to the setup, improving the owners' and visitors' experience dramatically. "Being able to know that someone's at the door, being able to see them, let them in—that all can be accomplished through a touch screen with Control4," says Steve.

And as complex as the system has become behind the scenes, the user experience is still elegantly simple. No matter what room the owners are in, they can use a remote or their smart phone to work the system in the same way.

The owner is more than satisfied with the system. "I think what's really nice for me is the convenience," he says. The home smarts get to sparkle especially when the owners are entertaining—a frequent occurrence in this home. "It gives a lot of people a lot of choices, and for guests it feels like a big luxury, like they're in a resort," notes the owner. Visitors in the "casita" guesthouse, for instance, can play their own music and video, while the owner is firing up a dinner party playlist from a touch screen in the main house kitchen.

And, in the spirit of the Old World, the owners and their guests can still gaze out on the enchanted countryside from the storybook tower. But now, the owner can add a soundtrack of his choice with a touch of a button on his mobile phone.

And just like that, another high-tech skeptic is converted. "To have a few modern touches is kind of a sexy thing," this old-school owner admits with a smile.



# FIVE WAYS

## to Home Entertainment Bliss

Tired of the same old, same old in your music and movies? These high-res boosts will raise your roof.

First the bad news: Chances are, you could be getting a LOT more out of your home entertainment system. The good news? Today's advances in AV

will add some snap, sizzle, and pop to your movies and music, programs and sports, dinner parties and bashes. Get ready to boost the quality and resolution of your home AV and almost blow the ceiling off of your entertaining limitations.

### GO 4K ULTRA

Want to see stunning and crisp you-are-there realism, from nature scenes to sports?

Ultra HD—also known as “4K” because it delivers four times the resolution (in total pixels) of “full HD” 1080p—is available in flat-panel TVs, super-thin OLED TVs, projectors for home theater, and even video distribution systems for the whole house. (Control4 can deliver Ultra HD to up to 10 locations with its leaf branded 4K video distribution systems.) Here's a nifty tip: 4K projectors with motorized lenses “shift and zoom” can be used to zoom in and fill a super-wide CinemaScope 2.35:1 screen. Just program your Control4 remote to use the lens memory on the projector, says Scott Varn of Harmony Interiors in Asheville, N.C. With the superior resolution of 4K, the zoomed image is still better than 1080p.

### RAISE THE ROOF

The most exciting innovation to come to home theater in recent years is Dolby Atmos, which adds “height” effects to movie soundtracks. It seems to push the boundaries of a room skyward, so you can experience the sounds of a downpour in a tropical forest or airplanes whizzing by. Expect to witness more movies with height effects to take advantage of this. You'll need an Atmos-capable audio processor or receiver, and additional ceiling speakers or those that bounce the sound off the ceiling for effects. And don't forget a control system with an appropriate ‘Wow!’ button to floor your friends.



### HIGHER FIDELITY

If you love hosting dinner and pool parties, try serving up your favorite tunes with high-quality, digital-to-analog converter (DAC) that brings out the richness and nuances in your music. Audiophiles love the dramatically improved sounds from quality DACs, which can vastly enhance streamed audio from services like Pandora, Rhapsody, SiriusXM, Slacker, Songza, Spotify, Tidal, and Beats (now owned by Apple Music)—all of which are supported by the latest Control4® Operating System, as well as music systems from Autonomic, Fusion Research, Sonos, and Video Storm.

### LIGHTEN UP

Lighting is the finishing touch to a well-designed entertainment space, yet a lot of home theaters have controls with lighting presets that are either all on or all off. You want something in between if you're going to get up in the middle of the movie. Add presets to bring LED rope or string lights on stairs or baseboards to a low level, allowing viewers to see where they're going. Also include an entry mode that shows off your cool space, the wall art, interesting pieces and collections. And don't forget a full-brightness cleaning mode for later.

### HI-RES LOVER

Want to love music again? Last year wireless music system giant Sonos introduced “high-definition” audio from Deezer (it is CD-quality, which is better than most compressed music streaming). And now more and more high-resolution audio (better than CD quality) is available. You'll need something that can play one of the “lossless” formats like FLAC, WAV, DSD and AIFF. Hi-res players are available, and you can choose from plenty of hi-res services including HDTracks, Naim, Linn, Tidal, Bowers & Wilkins Society of Sound, Neil Young's PonoMusic, Technics Tracks, Super HiRez, Pro Studio Master, iTrax, Native DSD Music and more.

**TIP:** Support for the latest copy protection standards is an important consideration when choosing a 4K system. Make sure everything, from the TV to the Blu-ray player, has the right encryption technology (HDCP 2.2) or all you'll be enjoying is a black screen when you pop in your favorite 4K Blu-ray Disc.



Movies and video games in this Massachusetts cinema room are paused when the doorbell two floors down is pressed.



Project installation by  
Sounds Good Corporation

In this Ontario "library," automation operates invisibly, allowing the fine woodwork to remain smooth and sleek.



Project installation by  
Cinema Systems Corporation

# MODERN MAN CAVES

The classic "He-Man Hideaway" gets updated with automation

PHOTOS BY JIM STONE

Since the dawn of time—or perhaps just since man lived in caves, actually—the alpha male of the family has desired a place of his own. A room where he can get away from it all, have a sip of a little fermented-something, and entertain some fellow cave dudes. Thus, the man cave was born. Ever since, the concept has grown and evolved, and now, with the help of automation, man caves have experienced a complete overhaul. The Man

Cave 2.0 boasts all the elements of your classic man-space, but now includes tantalizing technology that is so cool, the caveman might even invite his woman and children in from time to time. The best part is, with all the choices in automation, every man (or woman) can craft their cave in their own style and scope. In short, even though they're often subterranean, the sky's the limit! Here we highlight two very different, but equally awesome, examples of the modern man cave in action.





After tapping the "All Off" button, guests have 15 seconds to finish their drinks and exit before the lights dim.



## TOYS IN THE ATTIC

Just outside of Boston, on a quiet residential lane in Lexington, Massachusetts, one family has turned their top floor into an entertainment epicenter. After the kids discovered automation at a neighbor's house, the father was convinced to add it to their own place, with just one guiding rule: It had to be just a little bit cooler than the "Jones's" system. The homeowner brought in Gregory Brett of Sounds Good Corporation to add smarts to the third floor, and

Gregory knew from the get-go that Control4 was the right solution. "In the Boston area, a lot of projects are retrofit projects, like this one. Control4 works great with retrofits. It's the largest control system that we use today," Gregory says. He started by adding a simple lighting system to the theater space, but the owner enjoyed that so much, they quickly expanded automation across the entire third floor. By the time they were finished, Gregory and his team had built a stunning space with all kinds of fabulous features:

the theater room, a billiards room, a wet bar, and fully integrated lighting, audio, video, intercom, and cameras. It's the sort of space you could easily hole up in for hours on end.

One essential element of the man cave is security (after all, a man cave shares many characteristics with its closely related cousin, the kid fort). In this top-floor version, the automation system keeps the homeowner keenly aware of anyone trying to access the inner sanctum. If someone rings the front bell, the doorbell will interrupt whatever

movie or music is playing upstairs. The owner can see and talk with visitors, and decide to let them in or not. If the visitors pass the test, the owner grants them access by unlocking the door from a touch screen or mobile device—all without leaving the top level.

Other convenient features of this fun-zone include lighting scenes to set the mood for any specific activity—movie-watching, drinks at the bar, or a game of pool. And, as an added convenience, the "All Off" button includes a 15-second delay, so people can head down the stairs before the lights begin to dim. Nice touch!

Another system favorite is the intercom. If the kids have taken over the man cave, the parents can tap a touch screen in the kitchen and see what the little ragamuffins are up to, as well as remotely control what the kids are watching or what game they're playing. As an added bonus, the parents no longer have to yell up two flights of stairs just to tell the kids that dinner is ready. "It just makes the smart home more accessible," Gregory notes.

Is this modern man cave a success? The owner's future plans prove it: He's adding automation to the basement, which will sport a workout room, a sauna, and a wine cellar. They've also added audio and video automation to their outdoor deck. The owners love their updated space, and Gregory couldn't be happier. "It's a great example of how you can start with just one small project and you can just keep growing with it over the years."

## CANADIAN CLASSIC

Meanwhile, in Toronto's Beach district, a lawyer has built the rec room of his dreams. It's a very classy affair, featuring a leather couch, vintage (working!) telephones and typewriters, and a distinctively Canadian scotch bar. But, while this swanky space sports all the essentials of a man cave, the owner Jason insists it has a different name. "We call it the library," he says with a smile. "My



Originally installed to control just the lighting, this system now controls audio, video, security cameras, intercom, and more.





When the library becomes the “whiskey and cigars” room, silent fans kick on to keep the air circulated.



wife was absolutely adamant we weren't going to call it a man cave.” Located on the lower level of his Ontario home, the room began as a basic TV room. Jason and his wife were interested in finding a way to cover the television with a piece of artwork when the TV wasn't in use. “We didn't want to have this black hole staring out at you from above the fireplace,” Jason notes. So, they found Morgan Millward, president of Cinema Systems Corp., and soon discovered a larger world of automation possibilities. And, while they eventually embraced all sorts of automated aspects, they were insistent on preserving the clean and elegant look of the room.

“They wanted AV in the room,” Morgan notes, “but didn't want to highlight it—they wanted it to disappear as much as possible.” Morgan went with a Control4 system, as he often does. “Control4 is the right solution for every project we do. It has a lot of features, it's reliable and at the right price point, and that's a winning combination.”

By getting in on the room renovation early, Morgan and his team saved themselves a heap of headaches. They were able to pre-wire the room without disturbing the luxurious woodwork. “Having everyone together at the early stages was really important,” Morgan recalls. Morgan was even able to hide

equipment racks behind the crafted millwork of two different cabinets on either side of the fireplace.

Today, this man cave—ahem, Library—is automated to the hilt. “We've integrated a lot of technology into a small space, and made it disappear as much as possible within that space,” Morgan notes. If the room is off, the moment the door opens, lights come up to greet the guest. When someone's ready to watch TV, the system reveals its hiding place. The painting of Pebble Beach golf course disappears into a slot as the lights dim for proper screen viewing. Another elegant touch is the absence of wall switches; smooth and stately woodwork remains unblemished while the owners turn lights on and off via their Control4 remote, smartphone or iPad. Meanwhile, motion sensors also monitor movement. If the AV system is off and 20 minutes go by with no motion, the system shuts down.

This ordinary lower-level room is now the ultimate entertainment den, where Jason and his wife can cuddle up and watch a movie by the fireplace on a wintry Toronto evening, or, where Jason can gather with his buddies to sip scotch and smoke cigars. A hidden extractor fan quietly keeps the room nice and clean. “My wife's happy about that,” Jason laughs. And now, instead of lugging a boom box into every room, Jason and his wife can access their music from their iPad tablet.

But the frills don't stop there. Another awesome automated element is the motorized window blind, which drops at the touch of a button to dim the room for television time. The blinds also work to protect the woodwork from getting sun-bleached at certain times of the day.

Guests are understandably amazed when they visit. “People love it when you push the button and the TV comes up; it's really neat,” Jason notes. Jason will open the Control4 app on his iPad and leave it out, so guests can change the lighting or the music. “Everyone loves the room,” Jason says with a smile. “We're so proud of it.” ■



Instead of being banished to a hallway closet, this rack stays hidden in custom cabinets on either side of the fireplace.





# BLOCK-BUSTER

The house that Hollywood built

Project installation by  
Hafco & Associates

There are dream destinations, and then there are destinations for your dreams.

Los Angeles, California is the latter—a veritable dream Mecca. A real-world fantasy-land where we find more stars on the ground than in the sky. It's

the entertainment capital of the world, so what better place to build an entertainer's dream house? That's just what Cyrus Harouni of Hafco & Associates did. And the poetic beauty of this particularly posh pad is that it has all the trappings of a spectacular Hollywood blockbuster.





Two driveways lead you into the ultimate entertainment smart home. One takes you into the show car garage, the other into the family garage, *left*. Equipped with a Control4 door station, the custom front door swings open on a fully automated home designed for Hollywood elite, *below*.

### STRONG VISUAL OPEN

The house is tucked in a residential pocket behind the world-famous Sunset Strip. At first glance, we think we're looking at two or three houses because there are two driveways. Eight fern pines line the strikingly unique modern design, and not that "white-box" modern that is cropping up everywhere these days. The horizontal lines of this house guide our eyes across elements that are at once both beautiful and intriguing. We feel a strong desire to get inside and know its secrets.

### THE SETUP

Cyrus Harouni, the designer of the house, had it built on spec, rightfully confident that he'd have no shortage of potential buyers. "I designed the house to have a certain mystery, with surprises," says Cyrus. "I don't put all the surprises at the beginning or the end. You come upon them organically and repeatedly as you move through the house." The asking price for this luxurious box of surprises? About \$25 million. "Cyrus had a pretty



PHOTOS BY NICK SPRINGETT

The state-of-the-art smart kitchen is fully tricked out, while at the same time remaining spacious and open.



amazing vision for this," Joe Mancuso of Chameleon Technologies tells us. Joe is the Control4 systems integrator who installed all the technological bells and whistles to realize Cyrus's vision. "It was great to work with him. He didn't skimp on things. He wanted to do it right."

### ACT 1—GLIMPSE ANOTHER WORLD

This is a smart home through and through, and the first indication of that is the Control4 door station. Pressing the doorbell sends a ring sample through the distributed audio system,

so wherever one may be in this massive manse, they will hear the bing-bong. One-way video transmits an image of the guest on all Control4 touch screens stationed throughout the house, and two-way audio enables intercom communication. Once the magnificent 6.5 x 11-foot front door swings open, 17,000 square feet of delightful innovation is ours to explore.

The aesthetic is clean, open, calm. There is a perfection to the design and construction. Little details, like utilizing U-channels between the ceilings and walls

so they feel like two elements floating separately from each other, add to the relaxing energy of the home. The first feature that dazzles us is the 20-foot-tall wine rack. Under our Control4 command, the rack is a rotating conveyer that holds hundreds of bottles. Heat-reflecting shades protect the precious vino from UV rays. Let's grab a bottle and enjoy it in the kitchen. Though it looks so open and minimal, this kitchen is brimming with gear including two ovens, a microwave, a built-in Miele espresso machine, and a





The floating stairway leads up to the bedrooms and down to entertainment central, *left*. The wine rack to end all wine racks—capacious, climate controlled, and motorized, *top*. “Floating” stepping stones on the koi pond provide enchanted passage between yard and house, *bottom*.

Miele fridge that blends into the wall so well that at first we don't see it. There are plenty of clean, smooth surfaces as well, which make this space as picture-perfect as any cooking show's set.

In the mood for music while we cook? No problem. There are 24 zones of audio in this house, comprised of 60 Sonance speakers, but you'd be hard-pressed to spot any in this kitchen.

That's because they are invisible, 100% camouflaged into the ceiling.

### ACT 2—THE JOURNEY GAINS MOMENTUM

The house is a long L-shape. At the inside corner of that L are two glass walls forming a right angle. With the push of a button, those glass walls become motorized doors that separate and slide

open on what could be called the grandest “room” in the house—the back yard.

Indeed, every room on the first floor widely opens up to the back yard. These motorized glass doors at the inside corner, however, open up on a pond, and here is that floating aesthetic again. Square stepping stones seem to rest buoyantly on the surface of the water, thanks to invisible acrylic

bases. Using them to get across the pond, we are now in the yard proper. From here we can lounge by the fire pit that sits in the center of a reflecting pool—fire on water. Or, opt to relax in the hot tub complete with waterfall. Or, swim in the 75-foot infinity edge lap pool. (We'll get to a few more pool surprises in a bit.)

This back yard is equipped with a Sonance SLS system, eight speakers tucked into the bushes and a subwoofer buried in the ground with only its mushroom cap visible. The result is an even

volume level and seamless sound wherever we walk on the property.

Back here we also have the cabana, which serves as an outdoor home theater and bar. A simple push of a button and the open air cabana transforms into a private space, motorized Lutron shades forming a barrier to the outside. We can enjoy the Sunbrite 55” TV open to the elements or closed up in privacy.

### THE THEME IS EXPLORED MORE DEEPLY

“I built it for a Hollywood type, for sure,” says Cyrus,

“but I wanted the house to be flexible. A single individual can live here and party, but it can also be a cozy home for a family. The basement area is built for entertainment, the second floor is a perfect family home, and the first floor can be one or the other. If you open it up, you can entertain. If you close it off, closing all the doors, it has distinct rooms and becomes a very cozy home.”

This is the real magic of the house, this versatility. It has the space and features needed for the most elite of Hollywood parties, but



The cabana, complete with bar, can be open as part of the yard, or closed off with motorized shades for its own private room.





it's also equipped to transform instantly into a family home. Cyrus used a lot of wood in the design, more than a modern house usually has, so the organic material would warm it up.

### THE CLIMACTIC MOMENT

Now we descend to the belly of the beast—the basement, if we can call it that. The staircase is a work of art, with more floating aesthetic as each step seems to hover in place, the two-storey single panes of glass anchoring them virtually, invisible to the eye.

This basement is recreation central. Couches and a bar area

serve as the focal point, and a beautiful window above the bar lets in natural light...through the pool. Yes, the window is fully submerged in the pool, and as we sip our cocktails, we can watch swimmers through the glass as though they're mermaids or mermen.

The bar has a 90" TV divided into four different DIRECTV feeds, providing a quad-screen option, sports bar-style.

This area also borders the inside of the garage, providing a full, unobstructed view of the car collection. "The house was inspired by the idea of the show car garage," Cyrus tells us. "I envisioned having ample

space for an outdoor room that could be used as a show car garage, and then a proper house designed around it. A lot of times, the garages are stuck into the basement as an afterthought. Whoever buys this house will have a car collection. If you have a \$300,000 car, maybe you want to show it off, you know?"

The garage is actually four garages in one. Motorized glass doors can partition off three areas of the garage, forming four distinct sections, all in plain view. The left and right sections each fit two cars, the middle back (which borders the bar area) fits three, and the middle front is perhaps where one parks



The basement's bar area receives natural sunshine through a skylight in the pond and this pool window installed by Hammerhead International, *left*. The basement's view of the magnificent show car garage, *above and right*.

the showpiece truck. Whatever is parked in this truly ultimate motor court can be admired from the comfort of the bar.

This basement also contains the maid's quarters, a laundry room, a sauna, a steam room, a spa room just waiting for a massage table, and a gym. The gym also happens to have a picture window completely submerged in the pool, so we can watch someone doing laps as we walk the treadmill. But behind two closed doors next to the bar is the sacred land of any Hollywood home—the screening room.

With 7.2 sound, Tannoy monitors and dual Sonance subwoofers, it's got an audio quality that would make any professional cinephile salivate. Press the "Movie" button on the Control4 keypad and the music fades down, the Lutron shade opens revealing the 22-foot screen, the SIM2 projector comes on, and the scrolling

DMX LED lighting dims until it goes out. (For a deep dive into this deluxe den, see page 36.)

### ACT 3—ALL IS REVEALED

"We ran over five miles of wire in this house," Joe Mancuso tells us as he opens a push-magnet cabinet that blends into the wall. "All of the video and audio sources live in these custom racks. You have a fully automated Control4 system, a full Lilin 16-camera system which has two megapixel picture and a 150-foot IR throw, alarm system, phone system, pool controller, and all our distributed audio amps, all in this single space. We have our own dedicated Blue-Bolt Panamax UPS and power conditioners supplying power to our racks. This is a true home-run house."

He points out the panelized lighting, commenting, "It's a much more elegant solution because instead of having a bank

of six gangs, we can just use one Control4 keypad, and from there we can do six or seven things."

Then we take the elevator up to the second floor...

### FINALE

"All the bedrooms are separated for noise," Cyrus points out. "They are designed as islands."

The three bedrooms are currently equipped with TVs and Sonance speakers, but Joe made sure that each is wired-and-ready should any game console or other AV equipment be desired.

The master bedroom not only has a commanding view of the yard, but is also furnished with invisible speakers. Call up the music of your choice as we step into the impressively large "His" walk-in closet or the even more impressive "Hers," complete with custom-built shoe racks and jewelry cases.





*The window is fully submerged in the pool, and as we sip our cocktails, we can watch swimmers through the glass.*





The master bedroom has invisible speakers in the walls, automated fireplace, and wood ceiling to match the floor, *above*. The master bath offers floating tub, steam shower, triple shower, and outside shower, *below*.

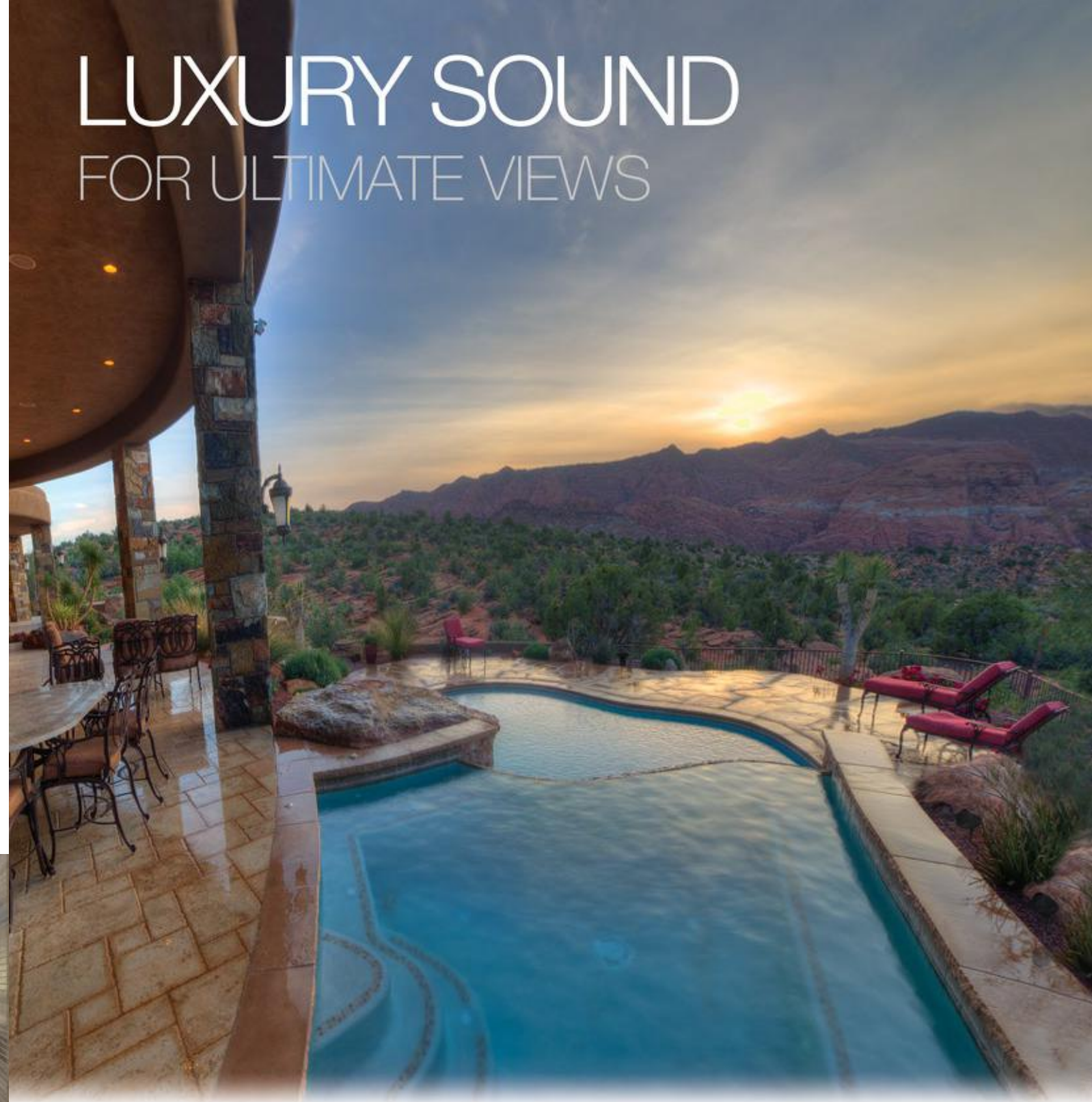
The master bath provides options: floating bathtub, steam shower, triple shower with waterproof speakers, and an outside shower which looks out on to a private area of the yard. When shaving or applying makeup, one can make use of the mirror TV at the same time.

As for evening routines, just a few steps outside the master bedroom is the top half of the 20-foot wine rack from Act 1. Use the Control4 keypad to call forth your desired bottle, pull it along with a couple of glasses, and enjoy a nightcap in the privacy of your very own dream home.

#### FINAL IMAGE

Now that night has fallen, it's time to go. But something catches our eye by the floating stepping stones—one more surprise for the evening.

It's as though the house has come alive beneath us. A square light well has been built into the bottom of the pond. We notice it now, as the lights are on in the night sky. We see the luxurious bar area through the water like a dream, and we imagine the parties we could have in such an entertainer's paradise. The fantasies play out in our minds like a Hollywood film. ■



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NICK SPRINGETT

# Entertainment for Entertainers

*Home theaters are passion projects, especially in Hollywood*

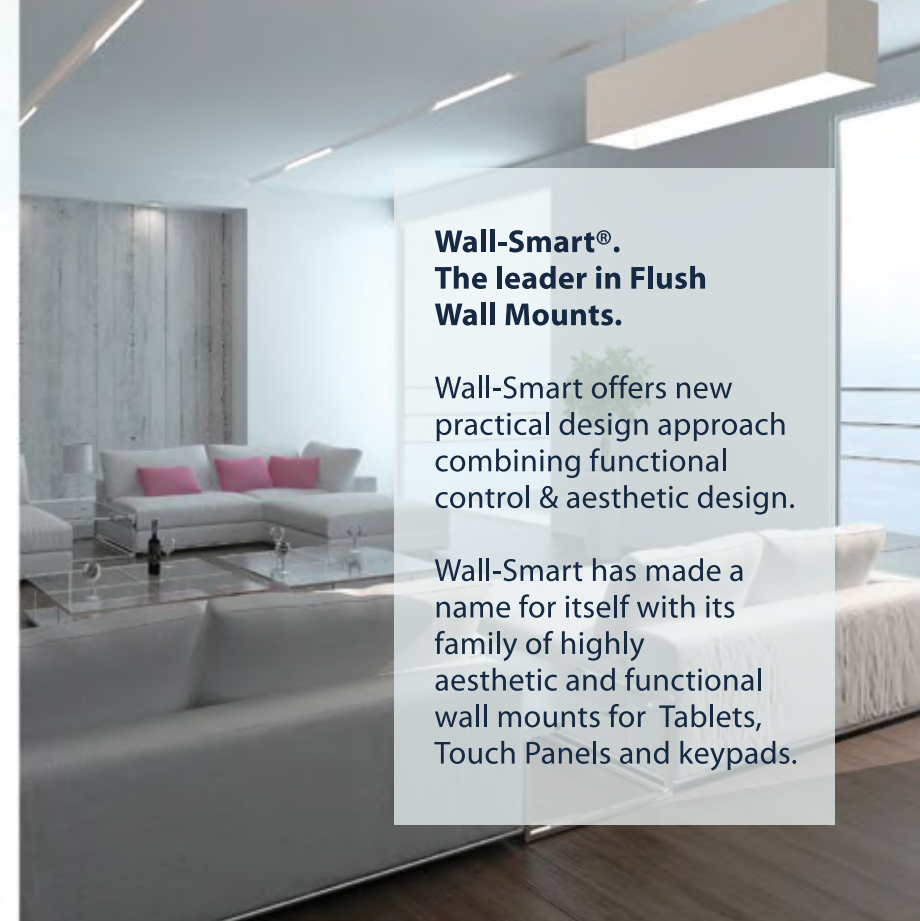
“This house is definitely an entertainer’s dream,” says William Gurk of Chameleon Technologies. “And this home theater is the epitome of the house’s technology. Six different cable boxes, Blu-ray, any type of streaming service through the Apple TV, plus a matrix switch that’ll switch any source into this theater.” Aside from the SIM2 projector, the Screen Innovations screen and the Denon powered 7.2 Tannoy/Sonance surround

sound, there’s also the comfort factor. Multi-level platforms for the bed-size couches provide theatrical seating for 15 people comfortably. “You can create any kind of mood lighting you like,” Gurk adds. “The DMX-controlled lighting can make any color of the rainbow at any brightness level because it has full RGB control.” The room also has its own zone of thermostat control. In a neighborhood full of celebrity homes, and with a high chance that the future owner of this house will be a celebrity, Chameleon has made sure this home theater is the cream of the crop. ■



JIM STONE

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**Paint Supplied**  
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**Serviceable**  
Offers easy access for service.



Hard to tell from the elegant exterior, but behind these Bostonian bricks are five floors of high-tech enhancement.



Project installation by  
Rexx Home Systems, Inc.



# BOSTON UNCOMMON

*Automation takes a stunning urban home to the next level. And the next, and the next, and the next.*

For seven years, a Boston couple lived happily on two stories of a charming brownstone building in Beacon Hill. But when they started having children, they knew it was time for a change: Find a bigger place, or expand their current one. As luck would have it, they were able to do the latter—buying out their neighbors, and then, expanding laterally by buying the building next to theirs. Now, the family of four has plenty of space. The challenge is that their house is divided into several levels (a basement, four stories of living space, and a rooftop deck). And after seeing how automation improved life for a friend, these owners decided to smarten up their home as part of a major renovation.

The owners tapped Jason Record, owner of Rexx Home





A retractable skylight is just one element that converts the formal living room into a comfy mini-movie theater.

Systems, Inc., from Cumberland, Maine, for the install. "It's a pretty unique project, two brownstones combined," Jason notes. "It's something a lot of people dream of doing, but few get beyond the dream phase." Jason and his team spent time conferring with the couple to make sure they were all on the same page.

"The husband wanted a lot of things integrated in the home: lighting, security, surveillance cameras. Plus, he wanted a system that could pull that all together, so Control4 was a good fit."

While the husband was gung-ho for gizmos, the wife, a designer, was

focused on making sure that none of the high-tech interrupted the clean and airy aesthetic of the house. "We had to make the technology fit with a beautiful house, so that the technology isn't a scab in the house," says Jason.

"Jason was great," the wife notes. "He worked with my husband for the technical parts and behind the scenes, then transitioned to work with me to make it all look beautiful and be seamless with the design."

Two years later, the renovation was complete, and the automation was, too. The result was a sprawling and impressive residence featuring automated elements on every floor.

PHOTOS BY JIMI STONE



Kitchen lights and audio are easily adjustable to fit the mood of the moment.

Included in the system are 14 audio zones (including three surround sound), 10 video zones, lighting, security cameras, motorized shades for the skylights, and more than a few special features that make entertaining in this house a real treat.

A favorite feature of the automation system is the ability to control the entire house—all five floors—from one location. They can hit the "All Off" button when leaving the house or going to sleep, avoiding the legwork of traveling throughout the house and turning every light off manually. "Vertical living in Boston can make turning all these lights off painful," Jason

notes. But even the "All Off" can be customized. This family has their system set to ensure that the one-touch scene does not include the sconce lights in both of the girls' bedrooms, which act as nightlights.

Other features make life more convenient. The husband works from home and often has meetings in a conference room in the basement. "We have a button that says 'Meeting'; I hit that and it lights up the entire downstairs space," the owner explains. The conference room table, by the way, sports its own smarts with a G-Link auxiliary input so that anyone visiting can play audio or video from their laptop

or mobile device anywhere in the house. Meanwhile, when the owner is working in his home office and the doorbell rings, the owner can grab his portable touch screen, see who's at the front door, and unlock the door with the touch of a button.

The system's security features are also pretty snazzy. Smart locks on several of the doors automatically relock when the doors are closed. The cleaning staff has their own entry code and the homeowners receive an alert when certain codes are used to enter the house. IP cameras offer 360-degree, wide-angle views of the front entry and other areas of the house. When



There is no room for wires and clunky tech in this clean, airy décor. Instead, automation is accessed via phones, iPad tablets, and discreet panels, *right*. The doorbell chime is programmed to ring in every audio zone, *below*.



Even the "All Off" function can be customized, to leave certain night lights on at the end of the day, *left*. The brain center is tucked away, all the tech virtually hidden from the eye, *below*.



someone presses the doorbell at the front door, an announcement agent fires off a chime throughout the house, including the rooftop deck. However, if nobody is on the rooftop deck, the chime won't play up there, so the neighbors aren't disturbed. Smart!

All of these automated additions improve the private lives of the family, but the system really shines when it comes to entertaining. Custom-lighting settings make it super-simple to set a mood in an instant, depending on the situation: watching a movie, having a few folks over, or having a full-on party. Plus, certain rooms sport their own smart-home specialties. Take the living room, for example: At first glance, it looks like a beautiful, electronics-free sitting space. At the touch of a button, however, this formal space becomes the place for watching your favorite film or TV show: A motorized shade shields an overhead skylight, the lights dim, and the mirror on the wall comes to life as a television screen.



The owners also love how easy it is to play music anywhere in the house. They had Rexx Home Systems include dedicated buttons on the keypad marked with a musical note in every room. Hit that button once, and the kids' music starts up. Hit it twice, and the parents' favorite playlists come to life. It's an instant party, and it couldn't be easier to use. "I don't have a lot of time to go through a lot of procedures," notes the wife. "But if I can reach out and touch one button and have music on, it's wonderful."

But the crown jewel of this project, the pièce de résistance, without a doubt, is the rooftop deck. It's a large, sprawling space covering the top of both buildings that is surprisingly private—no neighbors' windows face it directly. From the start, the owners knew they wanted to do something special up here. What they did was create the ultimate entertainment rooftop deck.

Inspired by the drive-in movie theaters he frequented as a kid, the owner





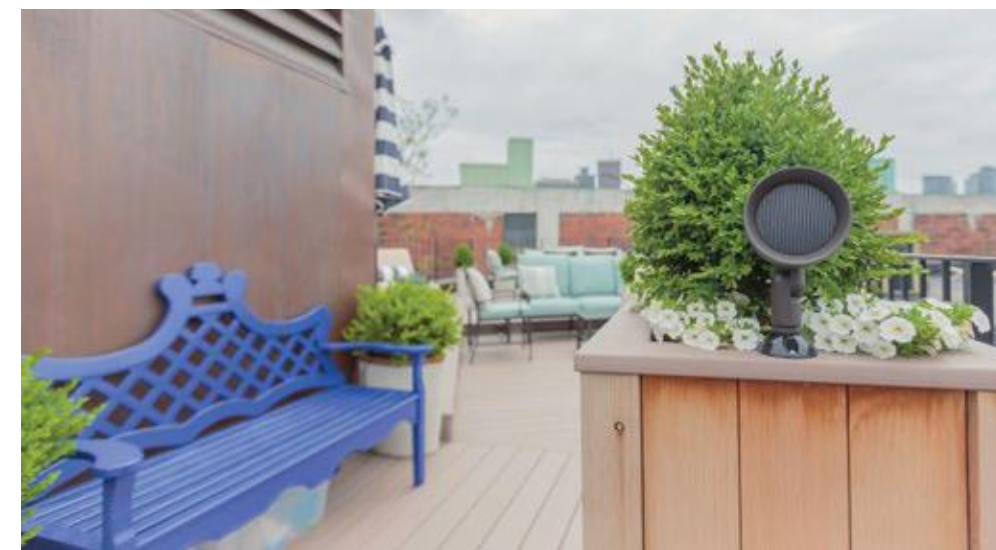
The rooftop deck television stays safe in a weatherproof case that automatically reacts and adjusts to the extreme Boston temperatures.

decided to go all out with an outdoor entertainment system. Rexx Home Systems installed three overlapping audio zones including a 5.2 surround sound system, and over 19 speakers and several subwoofers, all cleverly hidden within planter boxes or buried and disguised in the garden. The rooftop TV and its weatherproof enclosure weigh nearly 1,000 pounds and required a crane to install. The four-season enclosure can heat or cool the electronics as needed through the temperature extremes of Boston's summers and winters. The zones are smart enough to know that if you're watching a video in the theater zone, and the audio will defer to the movie, but if you're having a party, the music will play throughout the rooftop. Or, opt to have music in one area, plus the television and its related audio in another area, and even a separate music source playing near the hot tub (of course, there's a rooftop hot tub!). And for the truly personalized party touch, the owners can provide party guests with a temporary entry code that allows guests to let themselves in at the front door so there's no disruptive doorbell interrupting the

atmosphere of the gathering—very nice!

"I don't know of a better roof deck for entertaining," Jason says, and, after watching *Game of Thrones* on his rooftop with thundering accompanying audio, the owner absolutely agrees. But even with the countless streaming services and video source options available to play on the rooftop (or anywhere in the house, for that matter), the homeowner has to admit that, in reality, the stunning system is too often used to play episodes of *Dinosaur Train*.

So, smart home technology helped turn this daunting two-brownstone challenge into one fluid, complete, whole living environment. Despite the extent and vast scope of the system, the owners' favorite feature is, not surprisingly, the system's straight-up simplicity. "I grew up with four remotes in my parent's house," the husband laughs. The wife loves that she can pull out her mobile phone and change the volume of the music or turn a light off as she's chasing her kids throughout the house. "My mom can use it, our babysitters can use it," she notes. "The system is surprisingly easy. We love it." ■







# The Italian Job

An international movie maker powers his penthouse with automation

To be a top-notch movie producer, you've got to know how to multi-task, and that's just what one industry man has done with his Toronto penthouse. Andrea Iervolino is an Italian film producer whose company, AMBI pictures, has produced more than 40 feature films, including "The Humbling," starring Al Pacino, and "All Roads Lead to Rome" with Sarah Jessica Parker. High atop the posh Shangri-

La hotel and residences in downtown Toronto sits Andrea's swanky two-level penthouse apartment. It serves as an office, a screening room, and as a second residence when he's not in Italy. And now, with the help of a Control4 automation solution, this entertainment industry businessman has a stylish space where he can do some entertaining of his own.

After purchasing the penthouse, Andrea embarked on a major makeover of this manse, adding lots of glitz

The 4,300 square foot apartment features seven video zones and seven audio zones, a selection of lighting scenes, and jaw-dropping views of downtown Toronto.

Project installation by  
Automation Design Group



With the touch of a button, motorized blinds cover the floor-to-ceiling windows to transform the living room into a screening room.



(glass staircases, oversize artwork) and tapping Brian Longhurst of the Automation Design Group to smarten up the space with some entertainment-inspired automation. Brian and his team turned the residence into an audio-video wonderland, opting to use Control4 products because of the system's ease of use. "It's a pretty complex system now," Brian notes, "Control4 makes it simple not just for the homeowner, but for his guests and business associates too." The system features seven video zones, seven audio zones, lighting controls, remote access, and more.

Now, Andrea can conduct business, screen films, or host a dinner party, all with ease.

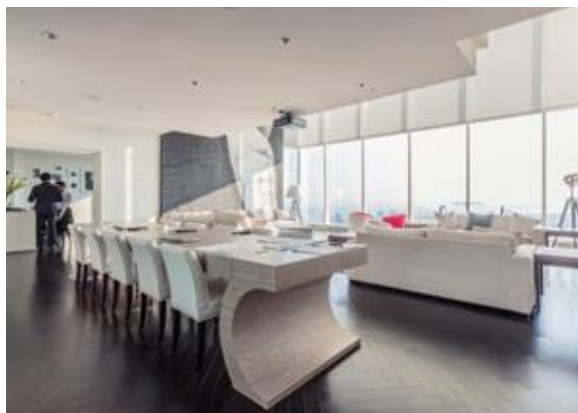
The coolest part of this palace is the transformation from living space to movie theater. At the touch of a button, large blinds lower and cover the massive windows overlooking the Toronto cityscape, and a large projection screen moves into place. Two separate 4K Ultra HD projectors work in tandem, projecting two images onto the screen, one on top of the other. That way, guests sitting on either level of the penthouse can watch at the same time. The same room also features a 70-inch







The projection screen is large enough to show two stacked images, so guests on both levels of the penthouse can view the next big blockbuster simultaneously.



television screen, so the living room actually sports three separate audio zones. That's a lot of overlapping audio to manage, so Brian had to make the system extra simple to use.

After just a couple of training sessions, Brian had Andrea working the system like a pro, and the movie producer now has the space to multitask like a pro. Here, he can do presentations, conduct video conference calls with colleagues back in Italy, and then, tap one lighting scene button to prepare the place for a dinner party. When he's home alone, Andrea can easily fire up one of his favorite

Italian radio stations. And, he can enjoy this entertainment epicenter even when he's not here. As the CEO and president of an international production company, Andrea travels extensively. "He's a busy guy," Brian says. But, he can check on his Toronto pad anywhere he may be via the Control4 system.

Thanks to automation, Andrea now has the perfect place to work on his latest project: a remake of the Italian classic "La Dolce Vita"—which, appropriately, translates to "the sweet life." With a penthouse this posh, life is very sweet, indeed. ■



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# UP, UP, AND... AMAZING

A hilltop home in wine country gets grounded with automation

Up a long, winding road in California's Sonoma County, a beautiful bride weds her winemaker-turned-developer groom as they stand next to an infinity pool edging a forested valley. The

stunning venue? For this fortunate couple, it's precisely the place they call home.

From the moment you turn off Highway 12 at the north end of the Sonoma Valley, you know you're headed somewhere special. Curve past a few redwoods, murmur over

From sunrise to sunset, this Santa Rosa home makes the most of its environment.

Project installation by Summit Technology Group





a wooden bridge crossing a stream, and, yes, keep climbing—you're headed in the right direction. Ring the bell, drive past the swinging gate and breathe a zen-like sigh as a world of natural beauty wraps its comforting arms around you. Among the tall trees, with open views towards the Pacific coast, it would be entirely fair to describe the whole scene as jaw-dropping.

Owners Greg and Julie Windisch clearly had a vision for this unique property, which, in the late 19th century, was a staging area for a northern California logging business. (You can still find old horseshoes and glass bottles

dating back to the 1920s scattered on the property.) For Julie Windisch, the vision was all about creating a space that would make lasting memories for their kids, family, and friends. She wanted a place that feels like you don't need to go somewhere else for fun. "Whether it's playing video games or riding dirt bikes with 10 friends over, we can be as loud as we like for as long as we want," says Julie. "I love the space and privacy."

For Greg Windisch, from the moment he found this secluded slice of wooded heaven, it was about slowly but surely transforming it into something of his very own—a



A fire by sunset with friends is just a button press away, top. Floor-to-ceiling glass walls bring the outdoors in and vice versa, above.



One touch of a keypad by the master bed makes it easy to turn all house lights off.

space that both worked in harmony with the forested environment and yet equally complemented his lifestyle, which means, yes, just as air is to the bird, a decent dose of technology was needed for Greg's vision.

Enter Jason Meyers, an experienced systems integrator. In 2006, Greg first enlisted Jason's help in transforming the guest suite over the garage. In search of a solution that would make the space friendly for guests and still easy for them to manage, Jason suggested and installed a Control4 system to automate the lighting (and manage energy use) and simplify

the TV setup. The minute Greg got his first taste of the system, the pair established an inspired working relationship. Whenever Greg had an idea, Jason delivered on it—or at least on a variation of it. "Greg's always been ambitious," laughs Jason. "And it's been really fun to collaborate. Plus, it's so nice working here, you don't want to go home."

No kidding. The main house, with floor-to-ceiling glass walls on the west side, beautifully incorporates the natural setting, inviting the outside in as much as it brings the inside out. It's spacious and modestly sprawling. Add to the mix an amazing pool, a hot tub, fire



PHOTOS BY JIM STONE





Note the big-screen TV by the pool. This is where the Windischs take in their morning news along with their coffee, *above*. The ultimate setting for a birthday slumber party, *right*.

pits, and plentiful outdoor furniture, and you've got a theme beginning to emerge: This place—this neck-of-the-woods space—is clearly about fun and relaxation.

Nearly 10 years later, fun and relaxation seed collaboration between Greg and Jason, now at Summit Technology Group. They've moved beyond lighting and make the magic happen on a larger scale. Now it's as simple as pushing a button called "Entertain" on his iPhone device to give the entire property, as Greg describes it, "an alive feeling." All outdoor lights come up, the firepit whooshes on, and the speakers surrounding the pool flood the environment

with music. "That's when we feel like we're all sitting around a pool in Vegas," laughs Julie. And that's just an everyday experience.

For their wedding day, Greg and Julie wanted the music from the poolside DJ to be piped throughout the property for a seamless air of celebration. Summit made it happen, just as they followed through on a Windisch suggestion to hang speakers in two perfectly positioned trees that line the infinity edge of the pool for their son's birthday. Kids gathered in sleeping bags on the retractable pool cover that holds 2,000 pounds to eat popcorn and watch a





movie projected onto a 10'x20' inflatable screen, flanked by proper speakers and amid a stunning and real-life starry backdrop.

Control4 systems work well for families. The interface is intuitive enough for kids to easily navigate, and the interface is exactly the same on their iPhone. If a houseguest is intimidated by all the buttons, Julie says, "just read them and you'll know what to do." (That doesn't stop her from pranking her brother when he pet-sits for them, making him jump by turning lights on or off remotely.)

The Control4 keypads, dimly backlit when not in use, light

up as your hand approaches. There's a programmed alarm feature that lets Julie turn on every light on the property, and sound the alarm, by hitting one button three times. "I really like that for when I'm gone," says Greg. "It gives me peace of mind."

They can see where their four dogs cuddle up in a pile while they're away on vacation via one of 12 connected security cameras. When coming back from a restaurant downtown, they often turn the hot tub on remotely so it is ready for a dip by the time they get home. As they climb the mountain, they tap the "Evening" scene, which



Security cameras keep a watchful eye on family dogs, *above*. An "Evening" scene makes sure the family never comes home to a dark house, *below*.



In every room, one button on a keypad is dedicated to opening the gate for expected visitors.



turns on the pre-selected lighting levels as they enter the property. They can save energy while they're out, yet come back to a well-lit property. There are screens to see who's at the front gate and a button to open it in every room. There's a button on each side of the master bed that lets them turn everything off again just before going to sleep, except for low-

energy under-cabinet lighting, which is especially handy for navigating in the dark.

But perhaps their favorite feature is the one that shuts off the kids' TVs, game consoles, Roku, what-have-they, at exactly 10 p.m. (See, you really do have total control!)

So what's next? A security camera for the nursery. A Windisch baby girl is due in

October. The baby intercom-video cam will automatically stay on in every room. The system thinks about these things so the tired parents don't have to. And that's the idea behind an intelligent home automation system. Control4 home automation makes the mundane outsourceable, so your time is available to spend on the really important things in your life. ■



# SAUCY AND SMART



Project installation by  
Audio Video Experience



When New Hampshire-based Ron Jillian's Bar and Grill moved to a bigger location near Hampton Beach, the owners knew it was time to upgrade their automation system, as well, so they ditched their limited system stuff and expanded with a Control4 system. Now, the Italian-themed eatery and popular drink spot boasts multiple zones, so the guys at the bar can watch the Bruins game, while the folks in the dining

room can listen to dinner jazz as they slurp up the famous pastas with house-made Bolognese sauce. Meanwhile, the newly opened basement pub ("The Vault") sports its own audio zone and streams music that goes well with darts and billiards. "The customers love the sound and the screens, and the staff enjoys controlling the system from an iPad," says owner Rosemary Blouin. "It's very user-friendly. We are very happy with the system." ■

PHOTOS BY JIM STONE



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